THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2026

Building Self-Reliance: Independent Fabric Cutting and Faster Kantha Preparation



Facilitators	2	Where	aikyam space, Fort Kochi
Run by	aikyam fellows and Shabana K H	Facilitated by	Shabana K H

Today we achieved noticeable improvements in both our production speed and team self-reliance. Our members worked together to wash, dry, and iron the cotton fabrics before cutting them into accurate 6 × 6 inch pieces. We also photographed the prepared squares to upload them into the Kantha app for design planning. Compared to earlier sessions, our entire workflow for washing, pressing, cutting, and documenting pieces has become significantly faster and more coordinated.

A major milestone today was restructuring how we manage bag fabric cutting. Previously, our teacher handled all the bag cutting for the entire group while other members focused solely on sewing. Although everyone in the unit is highly skilled at stitching, many felt hesitant and fearful about cutting fabrics themselves. To help members overcome this fear and build true independence, we changed our approach: under our teacher's step-by-step guidance and mentorship, each participant began measuring and cutting the fabric components required for their own bags. With clear instructions and support from the teacher, everyone managed to cut their pieces smoothly without major errors, marking a big step toward complete self-sufficiency in bag production

Self-awareness

Output

Self-awareness

Outcome

Self-awareness

Accelerated fabric preparation speed for the Kantha app and empowered participants to overcome their fear of fabric cutting through guided mentorship. How we know: Observed through faster completion of 6 × 6 inch fabric sets and successful, error-free independent cutting by members under the teacher's guidance.

(Participants told us)

Learnings

What worked: Shifting from centralized cutting to guided individual cutting under our teacher's mentorship helped members overcome their hesitation and cut bag components accurately on their own. What was difficult: Overcoming the initial fear of making irreversible cutting mistakes required patience, reassurance, and clear step-by-step demonstrations. Changes for next time: Continue pairing mentorship with independent cutting tasks across all upcoming bag batches until every member can cut without supervision.

Confidence and ownership

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